



IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

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For immediate release

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DNR EVALUATION RULE FOR LIVESTOCK FACILITIES EFFECTIVE AUGUST 23

DES MOINES – A department evaluation rule that could require additional conditions for proposed livestock operations that would pose an environmental threat will go into effect for new applications that come in after Aug. 22.

New or expanding open feedlots that need a construction permit, and confinements that need a construction permit or manure management plan could be affected.

“We would only be concerned about those proposed operations that pose a risk to the environment,” said Gene Tinker, coordinator of DNR animal feeding operations. “New applications that come in after Aug. 22 would be evaluated using the DNR’s evaluation rule.

Tinker added that after looking at all the applications, the DNR anticipates that very few sites will be impacted by the rule. “In a few risky cases where the planned operation has the potential to negatively affect our natural resources, the producer will be asked to modify the plan or the location,” Tinker said.

“Producers know their land better than anyone else,” he said. “If there is a potential risk to the environment, then the producer will know about it. I would encourage producers

who have a concern about risks to call me or call their local DNR field office to discuss the proposed operation and its location.”

In many cases producers can address those concerns before applying for a permit or submitting a manure or nutrient management plan.

“The DNR will work with producers either before they file or after to help them modify the plans or location and avoid hazards to our natural resources,” Tinker said. “In the worst case scenario and in very few cases, a site may pose so many risks that the environment would be better off if a completely different site were chosen.”

Such a location might include when the entire site or manure application area is located on shallow, fractured bedrock (known as karst) where manure could cause ground water contamination.

Livestock and poultry producers who want to submit a construction permit application or manure management plan (for non-permitted confinements) prior to the new rule must deliver it to the DNR by 4:30 p.m. on Aug. 22, or the forms must be postmarked on or before Aug. 22.

Additional information can be found at the following DNR field offices:

Manchester: (563) 927-2640
Mason City: (641) 424-4073
Spencer: (712) 262-4177
Atlantic: (712) 243-1934
Des Moines: (515) 725-0268
Washington: (319) 653-2135

Producers with questions about sites that need a construction permit should contact Gene Tinker at (515) 281-3103.

Media Contact: Gene Tinker at (515) 281-3103.

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NEW WETLAND DESIGNATION COULD AFFECT MANURE APPLICATION, LIVESTOCK LOCATIONS, STOCKPILES

DES MOINES – Livestock and poultry producers, along with new or expanding confinement animal producers should check for publicly-owned wetland areas before they apply or stockpile manure, or begin construction on a planned confinement structure. Some of these wetland areas may have setbacks and be protected by state law.

“Starting Aug. 23, all new confinement feeding operations must be constructed at least 2,500 feet away from a designated wetland,” said Gene Tinker, coordinator of the DNR’s animal feeding operations.

“For construction, this rule applies only to new structures. Existing confinements are specifically exempted from the separation distance,” said Tinker. “Confinements that have already begun construction or applied for a construction permit are also exempt. Planned confinements that have submitted a manure management plan to the DNR prior to Aug. 23 are also not affected.

“And, existing confinements can add a confinement structure to their operation without meeting the separation distance,” he said.

Tinker added that manure from open feedlots and from confinements of all sizes cannot be applied closer than 200 feet to a designated wetland.

There is no required separation distance for manure that is injected or incorporated on the same date that it was applied. And, producers who establish a 50-foot buffer around a designated area can apply manure right up to the edge of the buffer.

Stockpiles from open feedlots cannot be located closer than 200 feet from a designated wetland.

A designated wetland must be owned and managed by either the federal government or the DNR. A list of designated wetlands is available on the DNR Web site at <http://www.iowadnr.gov/afo/files/deswetlands.pdf>. The list is effective starting Aug. 23.

Land within a drainage district or levee district cannot be included in a designated wetland. Also, a designated wetland cannot include a wetland created by plugging an agricultural drainage well.

Media Contact: Gene Tinker, (515) 281-3103.

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CONSERVATION CENTRAL THE PLACE FOR CONSERVATION ANSWERS

Ten conservation agencies and organizations share tent at 2006 Farm Progress Show

AMANA — Looking for ways to enhance wildlife habitat or improve water quality on your land? Interested in establishing a conservation buffer or wetland? Want to improve fishing in your farm pond? Is woodlot improvement important to you?

Stop by the Conservation Central tent at the 2006 Farm Progress Show for some ideas and answers. Find five DNR booths at the show, Aug. 29 to 31, in the Amanas. The DNR

is partnering with nine other groups to form Conservation Central, the one-stop spot to get answers to your conservation questions.

The DNR will have expert staff from forestry, fisheries, wildlife, geographic information services and watershed improvement staff available to answer your questions and provide some ideas for land management.

The Conservation Central Tent will feature organizations that work with landowners to care for natural resources on private lands. This year, we will offer information on many conservation practices designed to help you improve wildlife habitat, enhance wetlands or woodlands and clean water runoff.

Whether you have questions on cost-share funds, programs like Conservation Reserve Program and Conservation Security Program, conservation planning and practices, or demonstrations, you should be able to find the right agency or group to help.

Outdoors, visitors can relax in a native plant area and enjoy original sculptures created from scrap metal recovered from Iowa rivers. Better yet, visitors to the outdoor area can watch a Rainfall Simulator demonstrations or help craft this year's sculpture with Ogden artist David Williamson.

The following agencies and organizations will be located in Conservation Central:

Conservation Districts of Iowa.
Iowa Association of Water Agencies.
Iowa Chapter, Soil and Water Conservation Society.
Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship, Division of Soil Conservation.
Iowa Department of Natural Resources.
Iowa Department of Transportation, Iowa Living Roadway Trust Fund.
Pheasants Forever.
Trees Forever.
USDA Farm Service Agency.
USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Conservation Central will be located on the south side of the exhibit grounds, next to Iowa State University Extension on Lots 1044 to 1048. Conservation games and prizes will also be available.

Stop by for one-stop conservation shopping and fun.

Media Contact: Karen Grimes at (515) 281-5135.

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**PROJECT AWARE SCULPTURES AND SCULPTING TO BE
LOCATED AT THE FARM PROGRESS SHOW**

AMANA — Step inside a water drop and the world looks different. Created by volunteers, “Drop In” is a giant water droplet made from scrap metal recovered in 2005 from the Little Sioux River. It’s an artistic offshoot of the DNR’s weeklong river cleanup, Project AWARE (A Watershed Awareness River Expedition).

You’re invited to experience the spirit of Project AWARE by stepping inside our water droplet. Visit the sculpture at the Farm Progress Show, Aug. 29 to 31, in the Amanas.

The sculptures are located in the outdoor area just west of Conservation Central on the south side of the exhibit field. Or, sit back and enjoy the native plants and willow seating that has become a Conservation Central standard.

With the help of artist David Williamson of Ogden, you can also help create this year’s trash sculpture. Williamson, his portable forge and about 200 pounds of rebar, fence posts, wire and appliance parts are located on Lot 1044. This small part of the 16,000 pounds of steel recovered from the Iowa and English Rivers in June is waiting for your creative input.

“Some artists focus on the process of public art,” said Williamson. “I focus on making the process of art public.”

Close by you will find a 10-foot-high canoe paddle, the product of the 2004 cleanup on the Des Moines River watershed. Both projects reflect the aims of Project AWARE – to get everyday citizens involved, hands-on, in water quality issues.

AWARE volunteers get to know Iowa’s waterways personally, experiencing, up-close, the damage that litter and pollution can do, while working hard to address those problems. These sculptures replicate that first-hand experience, putting volunteers in charge of the artistic process so they can produce lasting monuments to volunteerism and natural resources stewardship.

So come relax and enjoy the sculptures. Or, get busy and try sand casting, blacksmithing and, maybe even some wordsmithing or poetry writing.

Then take a trip into the Conservation Central tent for information from 10 conservation partners on everything from soil conservation to funding programs; tree planting to farm ponds.

Media Contacts: David Soenen with Iowater at (515) 205-8587, or Merry Rankin of the DNR Keepers of the Land Volunteer Program at (515) 281-0878.